

Client's ref.:
File: 0632-6210USFinal/JY

TITLE

PLASMA DISPLAY PANEL AND METHOD OF DRIVING THE SAME

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention:

The present invention relates to a plasma display panel (hereafter called PDP) technology, more specifically, to a 10 plasma display panel and a method of driving the plasma display panel to improve the brightness thereof using volume discharge effect.

Description of the Prior Art:

15 The PDP is a display device employing charges accumulated by electrode discharge. Due to a variety of advantages, such as large scale, high capacity and full-color capability, the PDP has become one of the most popular flat panels in various applications.

20 Fig. 1 is a cross-section of the display cell of a conventional triple-electrode PDP. As shown in Fig. 1, the PDP has two glass substrates 1 and 7. Inert gas, such as Ne and Xe, is filled in a cavity between the glass substrates 1 and 7. Two types of electrodes, including sustain electrode 25 X and scan electrodes Yi, are formed on the glass substrate 1 and parallel to each other. In addition, the sustain electrode X and scan electrodes Yi are coated with a dielectric layer 3 and a protective film 5. Address electrodes Ai are formed on the glass substrate 7 and 30 located perpendicular to the sustain electrode X and scan electrodes Yi. Display cells of the PDP are isolated from

each other by ribs 8. There are fluorescent materials 9 between these ribs 8 for illuminating in the discharge process. The fluorescent material 9 and the address electrodes Ai are separated by a dielectric layer 4.

5 Fig. 2 is a top view of the display cell of the conventional PDP. As shown in the figure, the sustain electrode X and the scan electrodes Yi are formed by transparent electrodes and located in parallel on one substrate. Address electrodes Ai are formed on the other 10 substrate, perpendicular to the sustain electrode X and the scan electrodes Yi. The region surrounded by the ribs 8 constitutes a display cell 10.

Fig. 3 is a block diagram of a PDP monitor employing the conventional PDP. As shown in Fig. 3, the PDP 100 is 15 driven by the scan electrodes Y1-Yn and sustain electrode X parallel to each other and the address electrodes A1-Am perpendicular to the electrodes Y1-Yn and X. As well as the PDP, the PDP monitor also includes a control circuit 110, an Y scan driver 112, an X common driver 114 and an address 20 driver 116. The control circuit 110, using clock signal CLOCK, video data signal DATA, vertical synchronizing clock VSYNC and horizontal synchronizing clock HSYNC, produces display data and scan timing information for the generation of the driving signals in the above-mentioned drivers.

25 Fig. 4 is a timing diagram of the display of a frame on the PDP using the conventional driving scheme. Each frame is divided into several sub-frames. For example, in Fig. 3, each frame is divided into eight sub-frames SF1-SF8. Each 30 sub-frame is used to process a certain gray level in a gray scale for all scanning lines. In a case of the gray scale with 256 gray levels, which corresponds to 8 bits, eight

sub-frames are required. In addition, each sub-frame constitutes three operational periods, including reset periods RS1-RS8, address periods AR1-AR8 and sustain periods SS1-SS8.

5 The reset periods RS1-RS8 clear the residual charges of the last sub-frame. The address periods AR1-AR8 accumulate wall charges on some of the display cells using addressing discharge. More specifically, the scan electrodes Y_i are sequentially scanned and address pulses which contain 10 display data are sent to the address electrodes A_i . Thus, the wall charges can be formed on the addressed display cells through the discharge between scan electrodes Y_i and address electrodes A_i . The sustain periods SS1-SS8 alternately send sustain pulses to the scanning electrodes 15 Y_i and the sustain electrode X . Only the display cells that have had the wall charges generated by addressing discharge in the address periods can be continuously illuminated in the sustain periods.

Fig. 5 is a waveform diagram illustrating the driving 20 signals on the sustain electrode X and scan electrodes Y_i of the PDP in a sustain period. As shown in Fig. 5, the X common driver 114 and the Y scan driver 112 alternately send the sustain pulses to the sustain electrode X and the scan electrodes Y_i , respectively. If the voltage of the sustain 25 pulses is set to be V_s and the address electrodes A_i are maintained at a constant voltage V_d by means of the electric field between the sustain electrode X and the scan electrode Y_i , the display cells that have been written by the data in the address period can continuously illuminate. It is noted 30 that the sustain voltage V_s should be lower than the firing voltage between the sustain electrode X and the scan

electrodes Y_i , preventing the loss of memory due to unwanted discharge.

The display brightness of the PDP is basically determined by the duration of the sustain periods and the 5 average illumination during the sustain periods. The objective of the present invention is to provide a method of driving the PDP to improve the display brightness and luminescent efficiency of the PDP using the volume discharge effect, upgrading the display performance of the PDP. 10 Conventional proposals for improving the display brightness and luminescent efficiency using the volume discharge effect usually adopt complicated driving schemes, not easily implemented.

15 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention achieves the above-indicated objects by providing a method of driving a plasma display panel having a sustain electrode and scan electrodes located on the front substrate in parallel and having address electrodes located on the rear substrate. During the sustain periods, a first sustain pulse is transmitted to the sustain electrode and the address electrodes forming positive voltage differences between the sustain electrode and the scan electrodes and between the address electrodes and the scan electrodes. In addition, during the sustain period, a second sustain pulse is alternately transmitted to the scan electrodes for forming negative voltage difference between the sustain electrode and the scan electrodes and between the address electrodes and the scan electrodes. It 25 is noted that the first sustain pulse and the second sustain pulse are square-wave and out of phase. In addition, the 30

maximal voltage of the first sustain pulse and the second sustain pulse is lower than the firing voltages between the sustain electrode and the scan electrodes and between the address electrodes and the scan electrodes, preventing
5 erasure of the written data. Thus, the firing voltages between these electrodes must be high enough to broaden the operational range of the sustain voltage of the sustain pulses. There are four novel structures of the plasma display panel to raise the firing voltage in the present
10 invention.

In the first novel structure, the address electrode is divided into two parts. The first part is located under the rib for partitioning cells and the second part is located just under the sustain electrode and electrically connected to the first part. In the second novel structure, the address electrode is also divided into two parts. The first part has a first width. The second part has a second width larger than the first width and is located just under the sustain electrode. In the third novel structure, the vertical distance from the sustain electrode to the front substrate is larger than that from the scan electrodes to the front substrate. In the fourth novel structure, an auxiliary address electrode is added on the rear substrate and is electrically connected to the original address electrodes. The auxiliary address electrode is located just under the sustain electrode and parallel to the sustain
20 electrode.
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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

30 The following detailed description, given by way of example and not intended to limit the invention solely to

the embodiments described herein, will best be understood in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 (Prior Art) is a cross-section of A display cell of a conventional triple-electrode PDP;

5 Fig. 2 (Prior Art) is a top view of the display cell of the conventional PDP;

Fig. 3 (Prior Art) is a block diagram of a PDP monitor employing the conventional PDP;

10 Fig. 4 (Prior Art) is a timing diagram of the display of a frame on the PDP using the conventional driving scheme;

Fig. 5 (Prior Art) is a waveform diagram illustrating the driving signals on the sustain electrode X and scan electrodes Yi of the PDP in a sustain period;

15 Figs. 6A and 6B are schematic diagrams illustrating the volume discharge effect in accordance with the present invention;

20 Fig. 7 is a waveform diagram of the driving signals for the sustain electrode X, the scan electrode Yi and the address electrode Ai in accordance with the present embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 8 is a top view of the PDP in accordance with the first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 9 is a top view of the PDP in accordance with the second embodiment of the present invention;

25 Fig. 10 is a cross-section of the display cell of the PDP in accordance with the third embodiment of the present invention; and

30 Fig. 11 is a cross-section of a display cell of the PDP in accordance with the fourth embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

First Embodiment

The present invention employs the volume discharge effect to improve the display brightness and luminescent efficiency of the PDP during the sustain periods. More specifically, during the sustain periods, as well as the voltage applied between the sustain electrode X and the scan electrode Yi, an auxiliary voltage is additionally applied between the address electrode Ai and the scan electrode Yi. In the present invention, the same driving signal is sent to the sustain electrode X as well as the address electrode Ai at the same time to achieve the desired volume discharge effect.

Figs. 6A and 6B are schematic diagrams illustrating the volume discharge effect in accordance with the present invention. In Fig. 6A, the sustain pulses with an amplitude of voltage Vs are sent to the sustain electrode X and the address electrode Ai, respectively, where the voltage on the scan electrode Yi is 0V. Therefore, the wall charges (i.e. the positive ions) accumulated in the display cell 10 are moving toward the scan electrode Yi. In Fig. 6B, the sustain electrode X and the address electrode Ai are set to be 0V and the scan electrode Yi is set to be the voltage Vs. Now the wall charges move toward the sustain electrode X and the address electrode Ai. Accordingly, during the sustain periods, as well as the electric field between the sustain electrode X and the scan electrode Yi, an auxiliary electric field between the scan electrode Yi and the address electrode Ai occurs to enhance the volume discharge effect, improving display brightness and luminescent efficiency.

Fig. 7 is a waveform diagram of the driving signals for the sustain electrode X, the scan electrode Yi and the address electrode Ai in accordance with the present embodiment of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 7, 5 the sustain electrode X and the address electrode Ai are driven to be the same voltage during the sustain period, different from that in the conventional scheme. In other words, the sustain pulses with the amplitude of Vs are alternately sent to electrodes X/Ai and electrode Yi to 10 improve the display brightness and the luminescent efficiency.

In the present invention, the voltage Vs should be set lower than the firing voltage between the scan electrode Yi and the address Ai, preventing accidental erasure of the 15 data written in the address periods. Generally speaking, the firing voltage between the sustain electrode X and the scan electrode Yi is about 190V and the firing voltage between the address electrode Ai and electrodes X/Yi is about 160V. Therefore, the voltage Vs of the sustain pulses 20 is preferably set lower than 160V, preventing erasure of the written data. On the other hand, the voltage Vs of the sustain pulses is preferably high enough to achieve better sustain performance. In other words, the range of effective settings of the sustain voltage Vs is quite narrow. This 25 limitation may not affect the design of smaller PDPs, but deeply influences the design of larger PDPs due to the lack of uniformity in manufacturing processes. To solve such a problem, the firing voltage between the address electrode Ai and the scan electrode Yi should be raised in order to 30 broaden the operational range of the voltage Vs of the sustain pulses. In the present embodiment, a novel

structure of the display cell of the PDP is illustrated to achieve the above-mentioned purpose.

Fig. 8 is a top view of the PDP in accordance with the first embodiment of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 5, the sustain electrode X and the scan electrodes Yi remain unchanged and the address electrodes Ai are redesigned. Each of the address electrodes Ai is divided into two parts 20a and 20b. Part 20a is a strip located on the rear substrate just under the ribs 8 and its direction is perpendicular to that of the sustain electrode X and the scan electrode Yi. Part 20b is electrically connected to part 20a and located under the sustain electrode X. Part 20b is preferably slightly wider than the sustain electrode X. Parts 20a and 20b of the address electrode Ai are still 10 on the same plane. The design of the above-mentioned structure adjusts the average distance between the address electrode Ai and the scan electrode Yi. As the average distance is increased, the firing voltage therebetween 15 raises and the operational range of the sustain voltage is thus broadened.

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Accordingly, the driving scheme and the novel structure 25 of the PDP do not only improve display brightness and luminescent efficiency using the volume discharge effect, but also broaden the operational range of the sustain voltage to facilitate the design of PDPs.

Second Embodiment

The first embodiment employs the scheme of redesigning 30 address electrodes to raise the firing voltage between the address electrode Ai and the scan electrode Yi and to broaden the operational range of the sustain voltage. The

present embodiment adopts a different design to achieve the same object.

Fig. 9 is a top view of the PDP in accordance with the second embodiment of the present invention. As shown in 5 Fig. 9, the sustain electrode X and the scan electrodes Yi remain unchanged and the address electrodes Ai are redesigned. In the present embodiment, the address electrode Ai is still located on the rear substrate but divided into two parts with different widths. Part 30a is 10 narrower. Part 30b is wider and is located just under the sustain electrode X on the front substrate. Conventional address electrodes have a uniform width, about 80~100 μm . In the present embodiment, the width of part 30a of the address electrode is about 50 μm and the width of part 30b 15 is about 150 μm , where the ratio is preferably about 1:3. The average distance between the address electrode Ai and the scan electrode Yi is increased since the width of the address electrode Ai is not uniform, especially the wider part 30b under the sustain electrode X. Thus, the firing 20 voltage therebetween is also raised and the operational range of the sustain voltage is broadened.

Third Embodiment

The first and second embodiments employ the scheme of 25 redesigning the address electrodes to raise the firing voltage between the address electrodes Ai and the scan electrodes Yi. In the present embodiment, the distances between the sustain electrode X and the address electrode Ai and between the scan electrode Yi and the address electrode 30 Ai are altered to adjust the firing voltage.

Fig. 10 is a cross-section of the display cell of the PDP in accordance with the third embodiment of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 10, the address electrode A_i remains unchanged but the distances between the sustain electrode X' and the address electrode A_i and between the scan electrode Y_i' and the address electrode A_i are different. In other words, the sustain electrode X' and the scan electrode Y_i' are not located on the same plane. In the present embodiment, the vertical distance from the sustain electrode X' to the substrate 1 is longer than the vertical distance from the scan electrode Y_i' to the substrate 1. In other words, the average distance from the address electrode A_i to the scan electrode Y_i' is lengthened. Thus, the firing voltage therebetween is raised and the operational range of the sustain voltage is also increased.

Fourth Embodiment

In the present embodiment, an auxiliary address electrode is added to change the firing voltage between the scan electrode Y_i and the address electrode A_i , broadening the operational range of the sustain voltage.

Fig. 11 is a cross-section of a display cell of the PDP in accordance with the fourth embodiment of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 11, the sustain electrode X , the scan electrode Y_i and the address electrode A_i remain unchanged but an auxiliary address electrode A_i' is added and located under the original address electrode A_i . Between the address electrode A_i and the auxiliary address electrode A_i' there is a dielectric layer 6 serving as an isolation. The auxiliary address electrode A_i' is still

located on the rear substrate and electrically connected to the original address electrode A_i . In the present embodiment, the auxiliary address electrode A_i' is extended in parallel to the sustain electrode X on the substrate 1
5 and located just under the sustain electrode X . In other words, the addition of the auxiliary address electrode A_i' increases the firing voltage between the address electrode A_i (including the auxiliary address electrode A_i') and the scan electrode Y_i . Thus, the operational range of the
10 sustain voltage is broadened.

While the invention has been described by way of example and in terms of the preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the
15 disclosed embodiments. On the contrary, it is intended to cover various modifications and similar arrangements as would be apparent to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the scope of the appended claims should be accorded the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such
20 modifications and similar arrangements.